



PRESS RELEASE

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SCOTTSDALE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ARMED BANK ROBBERY

PHOENIX -- The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on June 15, 2004, Craig Michael Pritchert, DOB 2/1/63, of Scottsdale, Ariz., pled guilty to three counts of Armed Bank Robbery and one count of Using a Firearm During a Crime of Violence in federal district court in Phoenix.

Pritchert had been charged with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 2113(a) and (d), Armed Bank Robbery, and Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 924(c), Use of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence. Pritchert was charged with robbing banks in Oregon, Colorado and Arizona during which he used a gun and a disguise. Pritchert stole approximately \$120,000 in Oregon, approximately \$64,600 in Colorado and approximately \$32,300 in Arizona. Pritchert was captured with his co-defendant in the Colorado and Oregon robberies, Nova Esther Guthrie, in Capetown, South Africa on August 18, 2003.

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A conviction for Armed Bank Robbery carries a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison, a \$250,000.00 fine or both. A conviction for Using a Firearm During a Crime of Violence carries a mandatory consecutive penalty of five years in prison, \$250,000.00 fine or both.

Sentencing is set before Judge Broomfield on August 23, 2004.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Scottsdale Police Department and the FBI.

The prosecution is being handled by Michael W. Kemp, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-97-434-PHX-RCB, CR-04-478-PHX-RCB, and CR-04-479-PHX-RCB
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